

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-8 remain withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-4 and 9-14 remain active, of which Claims 3, 4, 13 and 14 have been allowed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the profile defined to provide a contact stress distribution which monotonically decreases in areas near edges of the contact region on the plane perpendicular to a vector indicating the friction force is a profile other than a circular arc profile "and a Lundberg's profile."

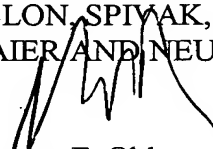
Claims 1, 2 and 9-12 have again been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by JP '431 (Kawamoto) which was discussed on page 2 of the present specification. Applicants had previously pointed out that JP '431 discloses a "Lundberg's profile." In response, the Examiner has stated that this argument is not persuasive because "the claims do not preclude a profile where the contact stress distribution first increases and then monotonically decreases," i.e., a Lundberg's profile. Since Claim 1 now explicitly precludes a Lundberg's profile, this rejection is believed to be moot.

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Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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